

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 00787 310126Z

14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

IO-11 OMB-01 /070 W

----- 116392

R 301344Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9979

INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 0787

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR IS

SUBJECT: RENEWED SPECULATION ON ARIEL SHARON'S FUTURE

1. LAST-MOMENT DECISION TO DROP GENERAL ADVISOR ARIEL (ARIK) SHARON FROM ENTOURAGE ACCOMPANYING RABIN TO WASHINGTON HAS LED TO RENEWED SPECULATION THAT SHARON INTENDS TO RESIGN IN NEAR FUTURE. HAARETZ POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT MATTI GOLAN WROTE ON JAN 28 THAT SHARON HAS ALREADY REACHED A DECISION TO RESIGN BUT IS MERELY AWAITING APPROPRIATE OCCASION. ACCORDING TO GOLAN, RABIN-SHARON RELATIONSHIP HAS BECOME PROGRESSIVELY STRAINED. ONE ONE HAND, RABIN REPORTEDLY HAS BECOME TIRED OF SHARON'S ENDLESS CRITICISM OF AND OPPOSITION TO THE GOVERNMENT'S FOREIGN POLICY LINE. CONVERSELY, SHARON HAS FOUND HIS OFFICIAL DUTIES PROGRESSIVELY RESTRICTED AND HIS INFLUENCE ON DECISION-MAKING TO BE EXTREMELY LIMITED.

2. LOCAL OBSERVERS WITH WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN THIS WEEK HAVE TOLD US THAT SUDDEN DECISION TO DROP SHARON FROM WASHINGTON TRIP WAS PROBABLY POLITICALLY MOTIVATED AND NOT REPEAT NOT LINKED TO LEBANESE SITUATION AS CLAIMED IN INITIAL NEWS REPORTS. ACCORDING TO ONE USUALLY WELL-INFORMED SOURCE, AS LATE AS TWO DAYS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEL AV 00787 310126Z

BEFORE RABIN'S DEPARTURE SHARON WAS STILL INCLUDED

IN THE ENTOURAGE. SOMETHING HAPPENED IN THOSE LAST
48 HOURS TO CHANGE HIS PLANS. SPECULATION IS THAT
SHARON HAD GOTTEN WORD THAT HIS WASHINGTON ROLE WOULD
BE DOWNGRADED AND THAT HE WOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM
A NUMBER OF KEY MEETINGS. ANOTHER VERSION HAS IT
THAT BOTH RABIN AND HE KNOW THAT HE IS ON HIS WAY OUT
AND THAT IT MADE NO SENSE TO TAKE HIM TO WASHINGTON.

3. WIDELY-HELD ASSUMPTION IN ISRAELI POLITICAL
CIRCLES IS THAT SHARON WILL AWAIT THE CABINET DEBATE
ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH JORDAN REGARDING THE WEST BANK
AND WILL THEN RESIGN IN OPPOSITION TO WHAT HE WILL
CHARACTERIZE AS THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO CONSIDER
SACRIFICING ISRAEL'S VITAL SECURITY INTERESTS UNDER
U.S. PRESSURE. HE WOULD THEN BE IN A POSITION TO
ATTRACT ALL THOSE ELEMENTS WHO BELIEVE THAT A "FIRM"
LINE IS ALWAYS THE BEST ANSWER AND WHO HAVE BEEN
LOOKING FOR A LEADER AROUND WHOM TO COALESCE. MOST
OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT IT WAS PRECISELY TO AVOID THIS
CONTINGENCY THAT RABIN BROUGHT HIM INTO THE GOVERNMENT.
DUNNIGAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TELAV00787
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760037-0998
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976013/aaaaabtd.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RENEWED SPECULATION ON ARIEL SHARON'S FUTURE
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IS, (SHARON, ARIEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006